



Town of Weare
Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman
Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair
Jeff Jackson
Lisa Grolljahn
William Bolton

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – December 9, 2015 draft MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Fulton.

Members present: Andy Fulton, Steve Najjar, Lisa Grolljahn, Bill Bolton

Guest: none

1. The Commission discussed Craig Francisco's email invitation for Conservation Commission members to attend a Planning Board meeting. The PB is readdressing proposed zoning ordinance changes regarding the conservation open space generated during development of a cluster subdivision. Chairman Fulton indicated his intention to attend, with his intent to be able to address PB concerns about changing the ordinance language to remove the town as a potential easement holder. Vice Chairman Najjar is unlikely to attend. Member Bolton may be able to attend. Mr. Najjar commented that to make any decision as a commission the meeting would have to be posted as a joint meeting. He stated that the gist of his concern is that property put into easement as the ordinance currently reads is not monitored, which greatly diminishes the intent of generating open space as a protected town asset.
2. November minutes were reviewed. Edits proposed include removing the redundant reference to October minutes approval, renumbering the items and minor grammatical corrections. Mr. Najjar **motioned** and Member Grolljahn seconded the motion to approve the November 18 CC minutes as amended. All voted in favor and the **motion passed**.
3. Mr. Fulton summarized BOS concerns emailed by the Town Administrator regarding a gate installed during forestry work at the Poor Farm Town Forest. The BOS was concerned that the Commission had improperly gated a Class VI road. The gate spans the west end of the main trail through Poor Farm. Town Forester Jeremy Turner and Mr. Najjar provided key input in answering the question to the satisfaction of the BOS and town Road Agent Tim Redmond. The trail is a discontinued section of Class VI Balch Road and the gating was not only properly vetted and installed, but necessary to limit dumping that was occurring in the forest, as documented by Paul Doscher at the time of the road discontinuation hearing years ago. The question was emailed Friday afternoon and a written response was provided by Monday morning. Mr. Fulton expressed his appreciation for the thorough and timely response; an example of the quality work of the Commission. Mr. Najjar mentioned that the Poor Farm trail brush removal and stump lowering work should be completed by next week.
4. Mr. Fulton mentioned the receipt of an email inquiry from the Town Administrator regarding BOS concerns with Chevy Hill Town Forest harvest access. Mr. Bolton commented that a winter harvest is typically not as noisy or disruptive to an abutting neighborhood. Mr. Najjar mentioned that there is usually a one-year window for completion of harvest activity once a contract is awarded so at this point we don't know when the work will be conducted. The concerns have been forwarded to Mr. Turner. If the questions cannot be adequately addressed by email, the Commission may have to pay Mr. Turner to attend a BOS meeting.
5. Mr. Fulton mentioned that Wendy Stevens emailed re road salt and chlorides, concerned about stream habitat impairment. Mr. Najjar suggested forwarding the information and concern to Mr. Redmond. Mr. Fulton is to email a response.

6. Mr. Fulton mentioned a phone inquiry forwarded by Merry Rice about riding horses on conservation land. He returned the call and found out that a potential buyer of land abutting the Shawn Hawkes easement land was interested. The deal fell through. Mr. Fulton suggested that the Commission remain mindful of this interest in conserved lands. Mr. Najjar mentioned that where easements on privately held land are concerned, we are not the sole arbiters of approval, a point Mr. Fulton made during his phone conversation.
7. Mr. Fulton addressed an email from Tom Jones of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy about the pending closing on a Martin Family Trust easement on map 408/lot 44.1. The Commission has conditionally pledged \$3,500 to the project in May 2015. Mr. Najjar questioned whether the town would hold an executory interest in the easement and whether the easement language was finalized. He suggested that a revote at next meeting may be necessary if the conditions of public access and snowmobile use are not adequately addressed. Mr. Fulton is to respond to PLC's inquiry.
8. SPNHF sent a letter reminder about Collins Ledge monitoring. Mr. Najjar suggested an email explaining our inability to monitor this year.
9. Mr. Najjar took the NH Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) award nominations form for consideration.
10. Mr. Fulton informed the Commission of a hemlock invasives workshop being sponsored by NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) to be held in Amherst. Our local landscape and wildlife habitat will change significantly with the likely loss of hemlock stand vitality.
11. Mr. Fulton noted that the Commission has received a bank statement indicating a balance of \$1,149.99 in the unrestricted grant account (Ciampi Fund) and mentioned that the balance may not reflect payment of an invoice for Eastman Conservation Area Town Forest trail assessment work from this past summer.
12. Mr. Najjar suggested that we need to follow up with the Town Administrator about resolving the conservation land encroachments at the Brookshire subdivision along Eleanor Way and that we may want to proceed with boulder boundary markers across the encroaching lawn areas.

Ms. Grolljahn **motioned** and Mr. Bolton seconded, all voted in favor, and meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Fulton (WCC Chair)